

February 24, 2020

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The Honorable Terri Sewell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tony Cardenas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adrian Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Shimkus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representatives Sewell, Smith, Cardenas, and Shimkus:

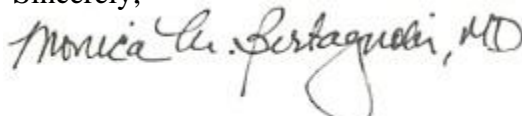
The Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) thanks you for introducing H.R. 5741, the *Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act* that creates important guardrails to protect patients and their providers from the unintended consequences of new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) payment models. ASCO is pleased to support this legislation and applauds you for your work on this issue.

As a national organization that values high-quality, patient-centered, value-based care, ASCO has long supported the transition away from fee-for-service payment models and has been a thought leader in the creation of alternative payment models (APMs). ASCO's years-long efforts to promote quality and value in cancer care delivery are reflected in our proposed [Patient-Centered Oncology Payment Model](#), our support of the [COME HOME initiative](#), and our work to promote oncology-specific [clinical pathways](#).

ASCO strongly supports innovation in the payment space, but unintended practice burdens and patient access barriers can result from testing new models without appropriate safeguards. The consequences of testing new models weigh especially heavy on smaller oncology practices, and patients residing in rural and underserved areas. The *Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act* creates important transparency requirements, rule-making protections, and hardship exemptions that will offer oncologists more insight into CMMI's process, and will protect both their patients and their practices from requirements that may result in undue economic hardship or loss of access to care for vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your attention to the unique needs of small practices, and those that serve patients in rural and underserved communities. ASCO looks forward to working with you to reduce these unintended burdens and barriers, to ensure all patients with cancer have access to high-quality care. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Tyler Hanson at Tyler.Hanson@asco.org.

Sincerely,



Monica Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology